

COVID Collaborative Support for Translating Summit Targets into Life-Saving Actions

The <u>COVID Collaborative</u> – a bipartisan, <u>national assembly</u> that has united leaders across health, education, industry, civil society, and philanthropy – is committed to the rapid achievement of the Global COVID-19 Summit targets. We commend the Biden-Harris Administration for its leadership in hosting this Summit and building global commitments toward these targets, which are consistent with the <u>goals</u> we have called for with over 100 leading individuals and organizations.

The Summit comes at a perilous and urgent moment in the pandemic. The Delta variant has spread swiftly and relentlessly around the world, demonstrating that we are fighting a virus that doesn't respect borders and advances rapidly across continents. If the virus continues to circulate unchecked in many parts of the world, we will see not only many more millions of infections and deaths, but also new variants that could entirely pierce vaccine immunity, returning the world to square one.

The best way to prevent further catastrophe is through widespread and equitable global vaccination, combined with other proven public health measures. That is why we, and our partners at Duke University, the Center for Global Development, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and elsewhere, support the central Summit target of vaccinating 70 percent of the population of all countries by mid-2022, and will continue to vigorously advocate for effective policies to achieve that goal.

We commit to continue to work with current and new partners, and leverage our national and international network, to provide evidence-based analysis to inform policymaking and advocacy in support of Summit targets – and the urgent actions needed to achieve them. These include accelerating vaccine production and delivery, investing in globally distributed vaccine manufacturing capacity, and, especially, strengthening countries' vaccine distribution and delivery capabilities. The latter will require both concerted multilateral and bilateral action.

We also commit to further expand this effort to provide a robust and comprehensive accountability platform for Summit actions going forward – monitoring progress, illuminating successful strategies, identifying opportunities for improvement, and delineating the swiftest path to ending the pandemic in 2022.

We are in a race against time. The global COVID-19 crisis demands – and the Summit should provide – strong leadership and effective accountability to translate targets into life-saving actions. We will work to ensure a coordinated, global response – the only possible successful response to the pandemic – that is grounded in equity at all levels, and that vaccinates the world by mid-2022, saves lives now, and lays the foundation for future pandemic preparedness.



Signed By:

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